

Testimony in Support

S.B. 383, An Act Increasing the Applicable Percentage of the Earned Income Tax Credit H.B. 5403, An Act Establishing A Child Tax Credit Against the Personal Income Tax

Committee on Finance, Revenue, and Bonding

March 15, 2021

Dear Senator Fonfara, Representative Scanlon, Senator Martin, Representative Cheeseman, and members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee:

My name is Robert Goodrich and I am the executive director of R.A.C.C.E., an education advocacy organization in Waterbury. I am in full support of both S.B. 383, “An Act Increasing the Applicable Percentage of the Earned Income Tax Credit,” and H.B. 5403, “An Act Establishing A Child Tax Credit Against the Personal Income Tax.”

In Waterbury, the average median household income has plummeted over the last 20 years from \$54k to \$42k.¹ This is a significant and undervalued piece of data that speaks volumes to the economic impacts a regressive tax policy has on my community but we all share here in Connecticut. However, poor and working class families suffer the most. In Waterbury, transportation and housing costs each family 43 percent of their annual household incomes.² From this we can ascertain that even a small boost in the form of a Child Tax Credit and increasing the applicable percentage of the Earned Income Tax Credit would allow families to be less burdened by high costs of living, low-levels of access to high-wage jobs, child care, poor air quality and the health related issues resulting from not having enough money to buy fresh food, health insurance, or safe and clean housing.

We organize students, youth, and parents in Waterbury to fight for racial justice in our schools but we understand that our education systems and its ability to provide high-quality and culturally sustaining educational experiences is directly connected to the welfare of the community it exists in. S.B. 383 and H.B. 5403 offering unique opportunities to families as anti-poverty measures but as an anti-crime as well as pro-education success measures. We urge all committee members to support these bills.

Respectfully,

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¹ U.S. Census data: <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/waterburycityconnecticut/POP060210>

² Accessed via: The Center for Neighborhood Technology's Housing and Transportation (H+T) Affordability Index, <https://htaindex.cnt.org/fact-sheets/>